about two years ago to eradicate illiteracy in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the actual number of illiterates in the country;

(c) if so, what was the estimated number of illiterate persons in the country in the year of inception of the Mission;

(d) what would be the estimated number of illiterates by the end of this century and what yearly targets had been fixed by the Mission to make the illiterates as literates and what have been the achievements of the mission, year-wise so far; and

(e) the provision made for annual expenditure of the Mission and the amount actually spent so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The literacy data is collected through decennial census operations. The last census was held in 1981, according to which the total number of illiterates in all age groups was 424 million and in the 15—35 age group about 110 million.

The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterates in the age-group 15—35 years by 1995. The targets fixed since 1988-89 and the enrolment reported by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations is as under:—

Year	Target	Enrolment	
	(Persons in lakhs)		
1988-89	99.13	85.23	
1989-90	133.16	84.56	(upto December, 1989)

(e) The outlay and expenditure in the Central Sector under the Mission since 1988-89 is as given below:-

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
	(Rupees in crores)	
1988-89	75.50	82.92
1989-90	76.17	88.41

Involvement of voluntary organisations in social forestry

*193. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any involvement of voluntary organisations in social forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Voluntary Organisations are being involved in the Social Forestry Programme for raising nurseries, distribu-

tion of seedlings, planting work, extension and training activities and involvement of people in wastelands development. Financial assistance is provided to the voluntary agencies for such activities under the Grant-in-aid Scheme of the National Wastelands Development Board.

The year-wise details for the Seventh Plan period are given below:

Year	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1985-86	23	122.41
1986-87	96	370.40
1987-88	101	354.35
1988-89	68	517.16
1989-90	48	264.71
TOTAL	336	1629.03

(c) Does not arise.

Signing of agreements with Mauritius in the field of science and technology

*194. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently signed two agreements with Mauritius to promote bilateral relations in the field of Science and Technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government of India have signed the following two agreements with Mauritius to promote bilateral relations in Science and Technology:

(i) Agreements in Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology;

(ii) Agreement on the setting up of a Radio Telescope in Maritius;

Both these agreements were signed in New Delhi on January 24, 1990. The salient features of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation pertain to the following aspects:

(i) areas of common interest;

(ii) mechanisms of cooperation;

(iii) modalities for inter-organisational collaboration, through conclusion of protocols/contracts;

(iv) objectives of the Agreement being realized through the implementation of programmes agreed on periodically;

(v) according assistance and facilities as per the laws and regulations of the respective countries;

(vi) the Agreement being valid for five years and getting automatically extending for further periods of five years at a time, unless either side gives notice to the other of its intention to terminate the Agreement twelve months before the date of expiry;